United Nations A/57/142

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 July 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session

Observer status for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in the General Assembly

Letter dated 14 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached.

It would be appreciated if this letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Ambassador

02-45811 (E) 120702

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an intergovernmental organization based in Vienna. It was created in 1993 on the initiative of Switzerland and Austria and was granted partial diplomatic status in 1997 and full status in 2000. The purpose of the Centre is to promote comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organizations on mainly European migration issues. A major task is to develop a pan-European cooperation framework on relevant policy issues, so as to ensure that the countries in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe are fully included in a common European migration and asylum regime.

At present, a total of about 25 Governments support ICMPD in various ways. Its Steering Group is composed of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Switzerland. The member States finance the basic infrastructure. Also Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden assist the Centre with regular contributions. Germany and Hungary second staff to ICMPD. Bilateral cooperation agreements have been concluded with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine as well as with Canada. The United States of America is an observer to ICMPD. Financial contributions to ICMPD as secretariat of the Budapest process have been rendered by Belgium, Croatia, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United States of America.

Many ICMPD projects are commissioned by other international organizations. Thus, special European Union projects are carried out by ICMPD in view of the forthcoming new European Union border regime in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as many other European Union migration policy projects. Cooperation agreements have been signed by ICMPD with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Migration Policy Programme, Interpol and the World Customs Organization. An exchange of letters regulates the cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). For various projects relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, agreements have been concluded with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNHCR, IOM and the European Commission. Close cooperation on migration issues is carried out with the Stability Pact.

As secretariat for the Budapest process on entry control harmonization, which involves more than 40 States and 10 international organizations, ICMPD cooperates closely with the United Nations/Centre for International Crime Prevention, Europol, Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC), the Council of Europe and many other organizations. In the context of the Budapest process, ICMPD has organized 70 intergovernmental meetings since 1995. A major ministerial conference was held in Prague and a new one is scheduled, under the auspices of France.

The Centre has about 25 staff members in Vienna and total annual contributions of about 3 million euros (project grants included).

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Centre for Migration Policy Development to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.